

Serial No. 09/397,849
Response of Feb. 27, 2004

- 5 -

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (presently amended) A method for transmission of a stream of data between two first and second communications devices of a transmission system, the data being segmented into packets prior to transmission thereof, each of the packets comprising a header of a given size and a payload, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) at a first of the two communications said first communications device, in the header in the stream of data, examining a predetermined data element and evaluating information therein to determine whether said information is available to said first and second communication devices, independently from information in other headers in the stream of data;

(b) if said information is available to said first and second communication devices, reducing the given size of a selected number of said headers the header prior to said transmission of packets by eliminating a the predetermined data element therefrom to thereby respectively form a reduced headers header;

(bc) transmitting each of said reduced headers header from said first of the two communications devices to a said second of the two communications devices device; and

(ed) at said second of the two communications devices device, restoring the given size of the selected number of said headers header when each of said reduced headers header so transmitted has been received by said second of the two communications devices by reconstituting each-said predetermined data element thereto.

2. (cancelled)

Serial No. 09/397,849
Response of Feb. 27, 2004

- 6 -

3. (presently amended) The method of transmission according to Claim ~~3~~1, wherein the reconstituting of ~~each~~ said predetermined data element is accomplished by the insertion into the reduced header of a bit having a value of zero.

4. (presently amended) The method of transmission according to Claim 3, wherein error verification of the transmitted ~~packets~~ packet is conducted only in relation to bits forming part of the reduced header.

5. (original) The method of transmission according to Claim 4, wherein the error verification is accomplished by encoding the reduced header with a header error check field.

6. (original) The method of transmission according to Claim 5, wherein the error verification is computed by way of a Hamming code.

7. (presently amended) The method of transmission according to Claim 6, wherein ~~the selected number of headers constitutes all of the~~ all headers transmitted from said first ~~of the two~~ communications ~~devices~~ device are examined.

8. (original) The method of transmission according to Claim 6, wherein the packets are cells of a fixed length.

9. (original) The method of transmission according to Claim 8, wherein the cells are Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) cells.

10. (presently amended) The method of transmission according to Claim 9, wherein a ~~plurality of said predetermined data elements is eliminated and the headers, prior to said eliminating of predetermined data elements therefrom, each comprises two multiplexing identifiers in the form of a complete~~

an additional data element is eliminated from said header;

Serial No. 09/397,849
Response of Feb. 27, 2004

- 7 -

said data element and said additional data element comprise a Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) encoded on 8 bits and a complete Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI) encoded on 16 bits, and wherein the headers, after said eliminating of a predetermined data element therefrom, each comprises a reduced Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) encoded on 4 bits corresponding to 4 least significant bits of the complete Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) and each further comprises a Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI) encoded on 8 bits corresponding to 8 least significant bits of the complete Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI), and wherein;

said reduced header comprises a least significant portion of said VPI and a least significant portion of said VCI; and

the reconstituting of each predetermined data element includes adding ~~respectively 4 and 8~~ a sufficient number of bits each having a value of zero to the ~~reduced Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) and to the reduced Virtual Connection Identifier (VCI)~~ portion of said VPI and the portion of the VCI.

11. (presently amended) The method of transmission according to Claim 10, wherein

the ~~headers~~ header, prior to said eliminating of predetermined data elements therefrom, ~~each~~ comprises a 4-bit Generic Flow Control (GFC) field, the Generic Flow Control (GFC) field being eliminated to further form said reduced headers, header; and wherein

the reconstituting of each predetermined data element includes adding ~~[[4]]~~ a sufficient number of bits each having a value of zero to the reduced header to reconstitute said GFC field.

12. (presently amended) The method of transmission according to Claim 11, wherein the header error check field of ~~each said~~ header prior to said eliminating of predetermined data elements therefrom and of ~~each said~~ reduced header is a Header Error Check (HEC) field according to the Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) protocol ~~and is encoded on 8 bits.~~

Serial No. 09/397,849
Response of Feb. 27, 2004

- 8 -

13. (presently amended) The method of transmission according to Claim 11, wherein the header error check field of ~~each said~~ header prior to said eliminating of predetermined data elements therefrom and of ~~each said~~ reduced header is a Header Error Check (HEC) field according to the Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) protocol ~~and in the case of the reduced headers is encoded on fewer than 8 bits.~~

14. (original) The method of transmission according to Claim 13, wherein the Header Error Check (HEC) field of the reduced headers is encoded on 5 bits.

15. (presently amended) The method of transmission according to Claim 14, wherein the selected number of headers to which the step of reducing is applied is determined on instructions received by the first of the two communications ~~devices~~ device.

16. (presently amended) The method of transmission according to Claim 14, wherein the predetermined data ~~elements are~~ element is identified for elimination on instructions received by the first of the two communications ~~devices~~ device.

17. (presently amended) The method of transmission according to Claim 15, wherein the said instructions are furnished by the second of the two communications ~~devices~~ device.

18. (cancelled)

19. (original) The method of transmission according to Claim 15, wherein the said instructions are furnished by a network management device.

20. (original) The method of transmission according to Claim 16, wherein the said instructions are furnished by a network management device.

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

Serial No. 09/397,849
Response of Feb. 27, 2004

- 9 -

23. (presently amended) An apparatus for transmission of a stream of data to a communications device of a transmission system, the data being segmented into packets prior to transmission thereof, each of the packets comprising a header of a given size and a payload, the apparatus comprising a processor which ~~reduces the given size of a selected number of said headers~~

examines the header in the stream of data;

examines a predetermined data element therein;

evaluates information in said header to determine whether said information is available to said apparatus and said communication device, independently from information in other headers in the stream of data;

if said information is available to said apparatus and said communication device, causes the reduction the given size of the header prior to said transmission of packets by eliminating a the predetermined data element therefrom to thereby respectively form reduced headers, and wherein the given size is restored to the reduced headers when same are received by the communications device by reconstituting each said data element form a reduced header; and

controls transmitting said reduced header from apparatus.

24. (presently amended) An apparatus for reception of a stream of data transmitted by a communications device of in a transmission system, the data being segmented into packets prior to transmission thereof, each of the packets comprising a header of a given size and a payload, the given size of a selected number of said headers header having been reduced by the communications device prior to said transmission of packets by ~~eliminating a~~ evaluating information in said header to determine whether said information is available to said communication device and said apparatus independently from information in other headers in the stream of data, and if said information is available to said communications device and said

Serial No. 09/397,849
Response of Feb. 27, 2004

- 10 -

apparatus causing the reduction the given size of the header prior to said transmission of packets by eliminating the predetermined data element therefrom to thereby form a reduced headersheader, the apparatus comprising

a processor which restores the given size of ~~the selected number of~~ said headers header when ~~each of~~ said reduced headers header so transmitted has been received by the apparatus by reconstituting each said predetermined data element,

25. (new) The method of transmission according to Claim 10, wherein said additional data element relates to information selected from one of: a payload type; a cell loss priority; and a header error check,

26. (new) The method of transmission according to Claim 10, wherein said stream of data is examined for a header in on a periodic basis,

27. (new) The method of transmission according to Claim 10, wherein said first and second communication devices negotiate before said first communication device examines said stream of data.